

# EULOGY

ON THE

Illustrious George Washington,

PRONOUNCED AT MILTON,

TWENTY-SECOND FEBRUARY, 1800.

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By CHARLES PINCKNEY SUMNER.

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Dedham :

PRINTED BY H. MANN,

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1800.

# EULOGY

OF THE

ILLUSTRATED CODE OF CONDUCT

TECHNOLOGY OF THE



OF THE

ILLUSTRATED CODE OF CONDUCT

T. HARVEY, FINEST COPY

OF THE

ILLUSTRATED CODE OF CONDUCT

OF THE

TO THE SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN—  
IN DUTIFUL OBEDIENCE TO WHOSE REQUEST THIS  
EULOGY WAS PRONOUNCED—TO THE REVERED AU-  
DITORY, WHO SEEMED KINDLY REGARDLESS OF ITS  
IMPERFECTIONS ;—AND TO THE MANY OBLIGING,  
LIBERAL FRIENDS WHO HAVE SOLICITED ITS PUBLI-  
CATION,—WITH CONFIDENCE THAT NO MERITED IN-  
DULGENCE WILL BE WITHDRAWN, IT IS MOST RE-  
SPECTFULLY PRESENTED, BY THEIR

DEVOTED, HUMBLE SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

*Milton, 11 March, 1800.*



THE EFFECTS OF THE TOWN—  
IN DUTY OF COURTESY TO WHOM REQUEST THE  
LORD WAS RECORDED—TO THE REVEREND AT  
HIS, WHO SEEMED KINDLY REGARDING OF ITS  
INTERESTS—AND TO THE MANY COLLEGE  
LIBRARY MEN WHO HAVE COLLECTED ITS PERI-  
ODICALS—THEY CONTAINING THAT AS MERITED IN  
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THEY HAVE BEEN  
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## EULOGY.

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**INDUSTRY** pauses from her once cheering labors—the solemn dirge takes place of the song of mirth ;—our Country is in tears, her **Washington** is no more !

THIS day she would fondly have numbered *sixty eight* years, since propitious Heaven, regardless of her coming trials, had given him to her aid : proud that he had fulfilled his high destination, and still continued her faithful defender, she would not have turned a melancholy thought to the perils, through which he had conducted her. The lively cannon would have been but the faint echo to her joy ;—the festal

board, the sparkling glass and pleasure-beaming eye would have been but the feeble emblem of national hilarity: Henceforth the night of his death will be consecrated to sorrow, and shrouded in gloom congenial with the majesty of her grief. The annual return of this once joyful day will long be sacred to her most tender, loved sensations, and the smile her countenance may learn to resume, will receive a melting charm from the tear she cannot suppress.

WHEN fame with swollen eye, first announced our public calamity ; we looked, we heard with a responsive sigh ; and because she trembled while she spoke,—we permitted ourselves the hope that report might prove illusive. But this uncertainty,—this painful uncertainty was too dear to endure ; the solemn knell, the deepning universal aspect of wo soon placed beyond the reach of hope, what our boding hearts feared but too true.

HERE is a subject, my Friends, on which you all can be eloquent ; it becomes the sacred place devoted to its contemplation ; it excites the best, and none but the best feelings of Americans :—as they prize their country, they cherish the me-

memory of her hero, and love at a respectful admiring distance, to follow him through the vicissitudes of her fate.

WITH a mind expanded by the most liberal pursuits, a heart enamored with the charms of honor, devotion to his country was his first, his ruling passion. From an early military career, he retired with a blooming reputation to the best well-earned enjoyment of life. With easy dignity he looses the foldier in the citizen, and graces the arts of peace as well as war. Born for the universe, a province is too small a theatre for the display of his talents ; and the situation of our country soon opened the mightier field of his destiny.

WITH conscious pride he gloried in the prosperity of his King and Country ;—but for colonial degradation and subserviency he had not drawn his ready, his victorious sword. American patience had been put to the intolerable test ; the plain of Lexington had drank the blood of its peaceful cultivators ; when from that illustrious band of patriots, where first centred the wounded sensibilities of our country—is *Washington* commissioned to marshall and direct the rising energies of freedom.



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It is a needless, as it would be a painful task, to dwell on facts all know too well; or to resuscitate the feelings that are better at rest: Suffice it to remind you, that yonder hills almost in sight first received the American hero to the toils of fame: retaining still the vestiges of war, they will lecture succeeding generations, and teach them to guard their native soil from every insidious, selfish friend, or haughty foe: Their wounded fronts will frown on degeneracy, if every hill in America does not rise like, the *Heights of Dorchester*, to expel invasion from our indignant shores.

In the presence of *Washington*, resistance assumed a formidable attitude, confidence looked cheerful, and valor renewed the arm still bleeding from the carnage where *Warren* fell: But the too transient duration of patriotic fervor,—the genius of our valient thousands too unfriendly to the restraints of discipline,—the poverty and unpreparedness of the Colonies to meet the incalculable extent of their object, created anxieties and embarrassments which very few were permitted to share; which no one perhaps who does not, like him, combine in his character the talents and the feelings of the statesman, the patriot and soldier, can duly appreciate.

THE hero's mind rose with the magnitude of his task. Opposition and defeat itself served only to confirm his resolution, and call forth the resources of an exhaustless mind.—*Independence was declared* : and in the blackest hours of disaster *Washington* never despaired of his country.

ONCE only (forgive him freemen) ere his army had become enured to the well directed volleys of discipline, the yielding ranks of his retreating soldiery displayed the frightful impressions of a veteran enemy :—for one painful moment he thought all was lost ;—that Americans were unworthy the freedom, for which they too feebly contended ; and shocked to desperation, wished by a fortunate, honorable death to free himself from the intolerable spectacle of his country enslaved:

WHEN terror spread her darkest clouds over our land ; when an unfed, unclothed army marked the ice and the snow with the blood of their retreating footsteps ; when the sword of destruction seemed suspended only by a hair ; while rumor with her hundred mouths, if possible, magnified our distresses ; and tortured, languishing hope almost breathed her last ;—the brilliant achievement at *Princeton* turned aside the current of fate ;

the accomplished too sanguine *Burgoyne* is overwhelmed in the rising tide of our fortune ;—the close invested standards of *Yorktown* droop submission to the allied arms ;—deluded despotism soon gave up the fruitless toils of subjugation, the shattered remnants of baffled invasion are withdrawn, and Independence is confirmed.

THE Patriot Army now felt the too scanty, delusive recompense for their heroic toils ;—seven years with joyful obedience had they heard the orders of their Chief thunder along the embattled line : the wounds of injured bravery bled afresh ; they recoiled at the idea of dissolution. Then might ambition have seen his time and smiled ; then would have trembled the liberties of *America* had *Washington* aspired to any other crown than her happiness. In language ardent as his heroism, tender as his affection, he appeals to their untarnished honor ; they revered him as a father ;—the appeal was resistless. They saw the conflicting emotions of his breast ; those eyes, which had long witnessed their toils, which had often smiled at their glory, and wept at their sufferings, with keen anxiety now pierced their souls ; they forget themselves ;—a pearly tear steals down every cheek ; the latent evil spark is quenched ;



their patriotism rekindles ; with one heart and voice they resolve to confide in the justice of the country they had left all to serve, and give the world the illustrious, rare example of ‘an army victorious over its enemies, victorious over itself.’

His farewell interview with these his dear-loved companions can now be faintly imagined ; How he stood,—how he looked, when each advanced to take the last friendly, impassioned embrace ;—when with a glass in his hand and tears glistening in his eyes he wished to each his future life might be happy, as his past had been honorable ;—let those speak who have witnessed, let those attempt to describe who feel themselves equal to the melting scene.

THE war-worn veteran whose feelings have not rusted with his sword, will relate the story to his listening son ;—smile to see his warm heart susceptible to the touch of glory—and fondly destine him for that profession of which no dalliance in the lap of ease has obliterated the charms, no reverse of fortune allayed his admiration.

AMERICANS, what a vast weight of your revolution did this mighty man sustain ! Taxes were

indeed great, were burdensome ; but think how often your army was obliged to evade a decisive blow ; think of the complicated hardships they endured (the relation of which might make you shudder)—because the flame of public spirit too soon died away, and the resources of the country had become inaccessible. What must *Washington* have often felt ! Every eye in America, in wondering doubtful Europe, was fixt on him. He was a man of humanity ;—not a centinel felt a grievance he did not painfully commiserate ;—he was a man of consummate bravery ;—and to add to the full measure of his calamity, the country, whose fate was hourly in his hand, began to murmur, to reproach him with delay :—delicate situation ! unconquerable greatness of soul ! His reputation, dearer to a soldier than life, he sacrificed to your good.

AMERICANS, the hostile cannon has ceased to shake your houses and your hills ; the falling shell no more with horrid glare swells the terrors of the night ;—think one moment in peace of the untold distresses that might, that would have been your portion, had not your toils for freedom been crowned with success. *Washington* ! the heart recoils at his fate ; and resigns it to your own im-

aginations : As for you—you might have received his Majesty's most gracious pardon—might have reposed in the tranquil despair of subjugated India—or been blest with the liberty, under which distracted, bleeding Ireland now groans ; Cornwallis might here, instead of there, have been governing the Provinces his myrmidons had ravaged ; which his presumptuous imagination had fondly marked out as an empire for himself ! Happy countrymen ! retire to your homes, however humble ; enjoy your peace, your competence and your love !—kiss the children that throng around your knee, and teach them to bless God, that they are not born to the inheritance of slavery, nor doomed to the horrors of mutual destruction !

SURRENDERING his commission and bidding adieu to public life, *Washington*, amid the gratulations of thousands, through ways strewed with flowers, retired to those peaceful shades, of which long absence and mighty cares had heightened the enjoyment.

HE retired ; but he did not retire within himself. His mind was intent to bless his fellow-men. Unprotected worth found in him a warm patron and friend : Poverty repressed her sigh, forgot



injustice and smiled complacent on the bounty of his soul. The public welfare was still the darling object of his heart, and whatever could promote it, it was his chief happiness to pursue.

THE picture which our common country presented on the attainment of peace is fresh in every mind.—Her victory had secured her freedom ; but such a freedom as secured too few of the blessings of social life, and threatened to be of short duration. The States breathed hard from their struggle, and exhausted with the burden and heat of the revolutionary day, were divesting themselves of the bands of a too feeble confederation ; and fast dissolving into imbecility and disgrace. Faith was worn out ; credit had been swollen till it had burst ; justice not only blind, but deaf and dumb ; with scales reversed and blunted sword, could neither help her votaries, nor protect herself ; the defenders of their country almost addressed themselves to her compassion ; the poor soldier begged his bread through the land he had saved ; and the fair, but trembling fabric of society almost threatened ruin to those it scarcely sheltered.

THE prescient *Sage of Mount Vernon* had foreseen these approaching evils ; and early recom-

mended to the several States the adoption of such general measures as could alone give permanence to the national felicity, that independence put within their reach.

THE body politic still survived healthful and strong in the feelings, manners and principles, which immemorial virtuous habit had incorporated into her nature. The hectic of intenal faction had scarcely enfeebled her vitals, nor had foreign intrigue assumed the hardihood to seduce her from herself, and tear her limb from limb.

At length “in order to form a more perfect  
“union, establish justice, ensure domestic tran-  
“quility, provide for the common defence, pro-  
“mote the general welfare, and secure the bless-  
“ings of liberty”—the Federal Constitution of the  
United States, the result of his presiding wisdom,  
was adopted, as it was formed in ‘a spirit of amity,  
and of that mutual deference and concession, which  
the peculiarity of our political situation rendered  
indispensible.’ God grant that in this spirit it be  
long preserved, that so it may preserve those for  
whose boon it is designed!

At the unanimous call of his fellow-citizens,

which he could never hear but with duty and respect, he relinquishes every private consideration to make a people happy. Laborious days and sleepless nights are now his welcome portion : The Government of your choice commences its auspicious operation, and *Washington* presides. Say, did not then every countenance look contentment ; every dwelling speak prosperity, and your fields assume a more luxuriant smile ? Commerce, then safe in her innocence, spread your rising name to the borders of the earth, and waisted you the productions of every clime. You rapidly grew, the envy of the world ; were acknowledged happiest, as freest, of mankind, and disappointed the doating wish of those who seek with eagle eye, in the miscarriage of republics, a pretext for the enormities of despotism.

AMERICANS, this is a trait of the enchanting picture which Europe admired, confessed was yours, and kindled into freedom, while she viewed. Will you disclaim it ? does too close inspection and intimacy with the original destroy its truth ? is it too highly colored ?—Alas *Washington* was not omnipotent ! Earth is not a paradise !—

For eight years he conducted the bark of state ;



the political sky was tempestuous, the winds and the waves were sometimes unhappily in adverse directions ; her path was untraversed and various minds prevailing with regard to her course, many seemed more disposed to counsel the pilot than obey his orders.—Strict justice was the compass by which he steered ; he respected the wishes of all, and never went counter to the advice of those whom it was his duty to consult ; amid innumerable difficulties the way of safety was that of glory.—Sedulously regarding the interests of all, he relied with just confidence on the attachment of an omnipotent majority. With the conscious invulnerability of virtue, he pardoned the harmless, expected aspersions of the unworthy ; and pursued the firm resolve of his unbiaſſed equal mind. The arduous difficulties of republican elevation were at length appreciated ; and all acquiesced in his decree. Having navigated her through the dangers of her outset, accustomed her powers to the gale ; and done all that human wisdom and integrity could effect, if not all that extravagance could wish ; he gave affectionate farewell advice to those on board, well calculated to make them wise to salvation, and resigning the helm to able, faithful, experienced hands, sought the tranquil privacy which a far spent glorious life had rendered  
‘ as necessary as welcome.’

BUT his feelings were too keen for his happiness.—Our rich unprotected commerce on all sides falling a devoted prey: our country meeting the indignity abroad, which her upright pacific policy had not deserved, and compelled to assume a defensive posture; her *Washington* is still himself; tho' mighty cares had impaired his strength, the venerable sage with ready hand resumes his faithful sword—that sword, whose unsullied justice did ‘blind men with its beams,’—and like that of Eden flame every way to guard invaded night.—America was in array; for who would not throng the standard he would raise—who would not crowd the ranks of war in the cause for which *Washington* would contend?

HERE was the last stage of his long career of renown. The pride of his country, the wonder of mankind, has, like a soldier, obeyed the high summons of the God of Armies. His associates, in the toils of glory, were hourly falling. He stood almost alone on the field of fame, and was prepared for the expected stroke of fate. The calm fortitude and presence of mind, with which he had often stood the shock of battle, did not forsake him in his last unequalled triumphant conflict.

THE worthy disconsolate partner of his heart,

we thank for the life-long smile with which she smoothed his brow ; and gave his magnanimous cares to the service of his country ; we wish her every consolation, earth or heaven can bestow. May the decline of her life's mild day be gilded with the calm sunshine of the soul, and future generations rise up and call her blessed !—His fellow-laborers in war and peace, we thank for the persevering fortitude and wisdom with which they aided our beloved Chief ; they have claims on us which we cannot cancel, but with glory,—which grateful, admiring posterity will be too proud to evade. These he loved, to these we resign with painful sympathy, the sad pre-eminence of grief ; but, my fellow-countrymen, we were all near and dear to him,—and his memory shall endure—shall be revered forever.

BRIGHT must be the talents that presume to illustrate one action of his life. The unanimity with which he was twice elected President—the universal, deep-felt regret, when he declined their future suffrages ;—the constant devotedness to his fellow-citizens, which no period of his life ceased to manifest ; and the deep aspect of sorrow this day presents ;—these all designate the *man who* most pre-eminently *united all hearts* ; they speak his



only adequate,—exalted eulogy, and declare in language unequivocally loud, a nation's unabated confidence and love. To praise him in any audience the world could produce, would be a dull display of arrogance ;—with Americans it would be intolerable ; for who does not love his country, and revere her best earthly benefactor ? who cannot see the sun in the firmament ? who cannot hear the thunder of the sky ?—The taper only deadens itself that presumes to increase the splendor of noon day.

WHAT is the noble endowment he did not possess ? with an urbanity, that treated with the most obliging respect those from whose opinion he could not but dissent ; and with a prudence that in any other character might well have compensated the greatest moral deficiency ; he marshalled the phalanx of his virtues to the benefit of his fellow men. The spirit of republicanism almost resigned to him the sceptre of your affections ; he ruled in your hearts. Our history is scarcely more than his biography, our freedom and happiness the noblest, we trust unfading picture of his services and virtues,

WHAT was once *Washington* has been deposited with every testimonial of gratitude our country can

bestow : on this occasion only does she lament her republican simplicity, unequal to her pomp of war ; but she consoles herself, that wherein her magnificence has been deficient, her affection has been transcendent ; and that her hero has departed with a lustre that kings may sigh for, but sigh in vain.

THE Sun of Glory is set ; the hemisphere is darkened ; smaller luminaries may now rise and shine : The Sun of Glory is set—but his course is bright with inextinguishable beams. He has thrown light on most beclouded regions, and taught mankind the dignity of man. Illustrious nation, over whom he has shone, to whose temperament his mild radiance was congenial ;—happy those, who, in other climes attempting to move in his orbit, neither consume themselves nor their country in the flame they raise, but cannot control. —Thrice blest mankind, where liberty can wear a fearless smile, and virtue trust her constant friends.

THE shades of *Vernon* to remotest time, will be trod with awe ; the banks of *Potomac* will be hallowed ground. The aged oak shall sigh plaintive in the breeze. The little skiff shall suspend the laboring oar, and in soft melancholy twilight glide in silence by the sacred spot where drooping willows

mark the sage's tomb. The alert seaman, while his well trimmed bark moves majestic on the moaning wave, shall with proud respect, strike the topsail he has reared in every quarter of the globe,

IN some far distant commercial port, our fellow-countrymen hail this day with joy. The flags of all nations lightly wave from a forest of masts ; all is gaily. Around the bounteous board they wish health and long life to him whose name on their sea-letter has served them instead of cannon, ensured them respect wherever they displayed the American stars. Some neighboring fortress shakes the friendly coast with its responsive roar ; the sons of Columbia cast a long look of filial respect to their native land, and unconscious of the mournful spectacle, she now presents,—rejoice that her defender lives !——Good souls ! let them enjoy the passing hour of mirth, 'where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise.'

ILLUSTRIOUS man ! in what region of the earth has not thy name been heard with praise ? Posterity shall admire and love thee :—And if, in the vast orb of thy glory, our darkened optics can descry a spot, we trust it will, like those of the sun, be soon absorbed in thy pure effulgence. The tem-



porary clouds which, for thy country, thou hast permitted to obscure thy deeds, time will soon dispel, and thy fame will brighten with the flight of years.

### AMERICANS,

FOR a life devoted to your service, what does *Washington* deserve? The rising trophied column shall from far attract the admiring eye. The enduring statue with emulative care will present to revering posterity his august attitude and awful form. History shall be immortal, as just to his worth. Poesy shall robe him in unborrowed charms. A city, after the majestic model of his mind, bearing his name, shall concentrate our national glory, as he does our affection.—These a grateful empire will voluntarily pay; but, he deserves more;—he deserves the only reward he would ever accept, he deserves that you be faithful to yourselves, that you be free, united and happy: That party asperity from this memorable day subside; and all with liberal eye seek private interest in the common weal.

THUS shall your elective government, the true mirror of the general will, present an image that can never be disowned, and millions rise a stand-

ing army in support of the Constitution and Laws by which they are blest. Insurrection from the quiet sleep of death will not rear her devoted head,—invasion never dream of your shores, or be appalled at the view: Peace at home will ensure invincibility abroad: You shall fear no shock but that of the universe. The old Worthies, who with *Washington* illumed and cherished the tempered, undying flame of freedom, shall never shake their white locks, and sigh that their labors have been in vain. Your UNION shall subsist to everlasting generations, the best, the deserved *MONUMENT* to his fame, who led the army that achieved your independence;—who presided in the councils, that commenced your endless career of happiness.



7<sup>th</sup> AP 64